

Wetherby Civic Society

Autumn Newsletter

October 2006

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - RUTH WHEELER

Another year of activity for our Society, both business and social, engaging the mind and the senses. We hope you participated in problems and decisions involving the well being of the community as well as enjoying excursions to local places of interest.

Included in this Newsletter are reports from our various sub-committees which give a taster of the diverse interest of the Society. Nic Sheppard and his coterie keep a vigilant eye on all planning applications in the town and where appropriate submit comments to the planners of Leeds City Council of the concerns and opinions of the wider community. Peter Maun does sterling work looking after our tree planting and James Lodge on the often vexed problems of buildings, traffic and the wider environment.

We have had another year of outings; some more successful than others. When putting the programme together it is impossible to judge which will be winners and which also rans! Personally I was worried about the visit to the Walled Garden at Helmsley but afterwards decided it was my favourite - the Head Gardener was

On behalf of the Civic Society the small Planning Committee has endeavoured to keep track of, and where applicable, comment on planning proposals. Consideration is generally confined to proposals within the town centre Conservation Area, but on occasion comment is submitted to Leeds City Council on those plans that are believed to have wider affect on the whole or particular areas of the town.

such an enthusiastic inspiration. The most successful as far numbers was concerned was the visit to Stockeld Park - just on our doorstep. Here we had to arrange two separate tours - afternoon and evening. Of course, we were helped by some glorious May weather and the owner's encyclopaedic knowledge of the house's history.

Many thanks to Hilary Maun who

Annual General Meeting
7.30pm Monday 13th November 2006
Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Wetherby
Followed by talk by Sophie Bradley
Chief Reporter, Wetherby News on the role of the
local newspaper in the community

helped me arrange the programme. We always welcome ideas and suggestions so please do not hesitate to let us know where you think the Society may go. We are also conscious that in the recent past many of our visits have been during the working day. We are looking at places nearby where an evening visit is a possibility - again please let us have your suggestions.

I must put in a word for the Jubilee Garden at Wharfedale Lawn where

PLANNING - NIC SHEPPARD

Relevant applications are identified by means of the Leeds City Council web site, plans viewed in the public library, our observations discussed, and if necessary representation made to the City Council. This year the group has particularly considered:

a group of us are still involved in improving it. We meet most Tuesday mornings for weeding, further planting and an exhausted chat. Do come along and join us or simply enjoy this quiet garden by the river. In association with Wetherby in Bloom and the Camera Club we held a successful coffee morning in the Bathhouse in April. We raised over £140 which will be spent on additional planting in the woodland garden.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find details of various projects we have in mind. If you can help with them please let our Secretary know. We are always on the look out for new Committee and sub-committee members so again if you can help please get in touch.

This is nearly the end of my third year as Chairman and at our AGM I shall be vacating the Chair for a new broom! Voluntary organisations such as ours need a constant influx of new ideas and three years is long enough as Chairman. My best wishes to my successor.

I look forward to meeting you all on 13th November at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel for our AGM

- Residential developments on Deighton Road, Boston Road, Westgate and Spofforth Hill.
- The change of use of a shop to office in Church Street.
- Plans for a Medical Centre and a residential development in Hallfield Lane.
- Public access to Raby Park.

The town has seen significant changes this year with the

completion of the 'first phase' of the Mickelthwaite Farm Estate, the commercial and residential development on the old Cattle Market Site, and the long delayed river-side apartments at the bottom of Spofforth Hill.

Some might claim that the work of the Planning Group is a waste of time, given that many of our comments seem to be dismissed, or the applications revised and re-submitted in such a way that we have to do the work all over again. I would contend that our expressed interest, even when not directly

changing plans, continues to remind planners and developers of the wider interests of the community and will always influence both what is proposed and accepted.

TREES - PETER MAUN

Although the Society planted four more trees on the Ings, much of our concern this year was taken up with the effects of the prolonged hot dry summer. This proved just too much for some of our trees both on the Ings and on Hudson's Field. Later this year we shall be looking at these trees along with Andrew Pullan whose knowledge and expertise is such help. If, as is most probable the trees have to be replaced, then our new planting will

have to take second place. We are always grateful for donations for tree planting and, of

course, if we receive any then we shall continue with our work. One tree with protection costs about £176 and our policy is to plant native, deciduous species. Nearly all our recent plantings have been as memorials but please do not think that has to be the only reason. Why not gift a tree and enjoy it now!

Some of our members and the staff and pupils of St Joseph's school planted crocus and snow drop bulbs amongst the trees on the lime tree walk on Hudson's Field. This will add a splash of colour in the late winter and early Spring.

HELP HELP HELP HELP

- **Web Page Creation**
Can you help set up a cheap yet attractive website to promote the Society?
 - **Interpretation and Information Board at the Jubilee Garden**
Someone to liaise with the Town Council and Leeds City Council in seeking an Awards for All Lottery Grant.
 - **Planning Group**
Someone to join the Planning Group to view planning applications and help form the Society's response.
 - **Events Programme**
Someone to help our small group, planning Society outings and events.
- If you can help please contact the Secretary - 01937 583729

BUILDINGS AND ENVIRONMENT - JAMES LODGE

In last year's report I said we were still waiting for the promised traffic management scheme but perhaps we should soon see the promised redesign of the street layout to the east of the Town Hall. Well, we are

now waiting for that as well. As a result of pressure from the town's traders the work was postponed until after Christmas 2006. This was to ensure that it was carried out during a quiet trading period. Let's

hope that it does start immediately after Christmas this year. When completed it should give a much needed boost to the traditional heart of the town.

Will the redevelopment of the cattle market site with a new high quality food store put pressure on the town's traditional shopping centre?

